

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present case in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8 are currently pending. Claims 1-8 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoeps et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,299,495 in view of Lin, U.S. Patent No. 5,040,457. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action rejected claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoeps et al. in view of Lin, as applied to claims 1-5 and 8 above, and further in view of Marsden, U.S. Patent No. 2,448,226. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action asserts that Schoeps et al. discloses a separate cover for each spray nozzle. (Office Action, p. 2). However, this contention is incorrect. Schoeps et al. actually recites a plurality of spray nozzles per cover. For instance, Schoeps et al. recites, “A **plurality** of fan spray nozzle devices 7 are carried in a housing or housings 3 and are attached to suitable support members 4 and 6 which are part of the housing 3”. (Schoeps et al., col. 4 lines 19-2 (*Emphasis added*)).

Thus, Schoeps et al discloses a plurality of spray nozzles surrounded by a housing and does not teach or suggest separate covers, wherein each separate cover surrounds a single spray nozzle as claimed in claims 1-8.

Lin does not disclose the utilization of any covers. Lin does disclose the utilization of spray shields to confine the spray from the nozzles. (Lin, Col. 3 lines 17-19). However, Lin does not disclose utilizing a single spray shield for each nozzle. Further, Marsden does not disclose the utilization of any covers. Therefore, claims 1-8 cannot be obvious over Schoeps et al. in view of Lin and in further of view of Marsden, because neither Schoeps et al., Lin, nor Marsden teach or suggest the claimed separate covers.

The Office Action concedes that Schoeps et al. does not disclose the claimed opening constructed to not disturb the spray from the nozzle. (Office Action, p. 2). The Office Action asserts that Lin discloses an opening constructed to not disturb the spray from the nozzle. (Office Action, p. 3). However, this contention is not correct. Lin actually discloses a spray that is disturbed by spray shields. For example, Lin recites, "Spray shields 10, 11 confine the spray from the nozzles and extend across the entire breadth of the rail 1". (Lin, col. 3 lines 17-19).

Thus, Lin discloses spray shields that disturb the sprays from the nozzles and does not teach or suggest an opening constructed to not disturb the spray from the nozzle as claimed in claims 1-8. Further, Marsden does not disclose the utilization of any cover. Therefore, claims 1-8 cannot be obvious over Schoeps et al. in view of Lin and in further of view of Marsden, because neither Schoeps et al., Lin, nor Marsden teach or suggest the claimed opening.

Further, even if Lin is found to disclose the claimed opening constructed to not disturb the spray, Schoeps et al. teaches away from the combination with Lin. The combination of Schoeps et al. with Lin would, in effect, destroy the teaching of Schoeps et al. Therefore, the combination of Schoeps et al. with Lin is improper.

The Office Action asserts that “It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the spray nozzles of Schoeps et al. to have openings which do not disturb the spray from the nozzle, as taught by Lin, in order to allow the spray to leave the spray beam more smoothly.” (Office Action, p. 3). However, Schoeps et al. recites, “A primary advantage to the cylinder moistening assembly of the present invention is its ability to provide a virtually uniform moisture distribution factor per unit of surface area of the cylinder being moistened.” (Schoeps et al., col. 3 lines 1-4). The cylinder moistening assembly of Schoeps et al. provides this uniform moisture distribution by utilizing a screen assembly that disturbs the path of the spray. The removal of the screen assembly from Schoeps et al. would, in effect, destroy the teaching of Schoeps et al.

Lin teaches the removal of the screen assembly, which in effect, destroys the teaching of Schoeps et al. Thus, the combination of Schoeps et al. with Lin is improper. Therefore, claims 1-8 cannot be obvious over Schoeps et al. in view of Lin, because the combination of Schoeps et al. with Lin is improper.

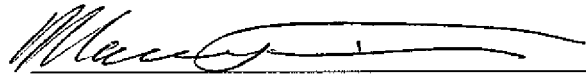
Accordingly, in view of the forgoing differences, Applicants respectfully submit the Office Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Office Action has failed to establish that the cited references teach or suggest the claims of the Instant Application. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application or if the Examiner should have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

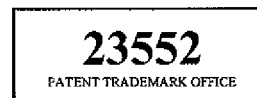
Respectfully submitted,

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